

Application No.: 09/827,362Docket No.: 30014165-2 US (1509-164)**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (new): A method of adding a new user account from a client computer onto a network including the client computer and a group of headless computers, the method comprising the steps of:

in response to the client computer signaling that a new user account is to be added, identifying the headless computers in the group that are valid targets capable of holding the new account ;

performing a test(s) to check that said identified headless computers are suitable to handle the new account;

in response to the test(s) indicating one of said identified headless computers is suitable for holding the new account, assigning the new account to said one headless computer for processing of the new account.

Claim 29 (new): A method of according to claim 28, wherein the identifying and the test performing steps are performed only if all the headless computers of the group are capable of receiving the signal that a new account is to be added.

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Claim 30 (new): A method according to claim 29, wherein the identifying and the test performing steps are performed only if the new account is found not to be in any of the headless computers of the group.

Claim 31 (new): A method according to claim 28, wherein the client computer has an address and the headless computers that are the valid targets have addresses, and the test(s) include(s) comparing the address of the client computer with the address of the headless computers.

Claim 32 (new): A method according to claim 31, wherein in response to the client computer address and the address(s) of the headless computers that are the valid targets being the same, forming a set of headless computers consisting of the headless computers having the same address as the address of the client computer, and selecting one of the headless computers from the set to be the headless computer to which the new account is assigned for processing.

Claim 33 (new): A method according to claim 32, wherein the selection is to the headless computer of the set having the maximum amount of available file space.

Claim 34 (new): A method according to claim 32, wherein the selection is random to a headless computer of the set.

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Claim 35 (new): A method according to claim 31, wherein in response to the client computer address differing from the addresses of all the headless computers that are the valid targets, forming a set of headless computers consisting of all the headless computers that are valid targets, and selecting one of the headless computers from the set to be the headless computer to which the new account is assigned for processing.

Claim 36 (new): A method according to claim 35 wherein the selection is to the headless computer of the set having the maximum amount of available file space.

Claim 37 (new): A method according to claim 35 wherein the selection is random to a headless computer of the set.

Claim 38 (new): A method according to claim 28, wherein the identifying step includes the following steps for each particular headless computer of the group:

(a) determining whether the particular headless computer has full data storage;
(b) determining whether the particular headless computer has reached a limit at which new users cannot be taken onto the particular headless computer; and
not identifying the particular headless computer entity as a valid target in response to either of determining steps (a) or (b) having a positive result.

Claim 39 (new): A method according to claim 32, wherein the identifying step includes the following steps for each particular headless computer of the group:

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(a) determining whether the particular headless computer has full data storage;
(b) determining whether the particular headless computer has reached a limit at which new users cannot be taken onto the particular headless computer; and
not identifying the particular headless computer entity as a valid target in response to either of determining steps (a) or (b) having a positive result.

Claim 40 (new): A method according to claim 35, wherein the identifying step includes the following steps for each particular headless computer of the group:

(a) determining whether the particular headless computer has full data storage;
(b) determining whether the particular headless computer has reached a limit at which new users cannot be taken onto the particular headless computer; and
not identifying the particular headless computer entity as a valid target in response to either of determining steps (a) or (b) having a positive result.

Claim 41 (new): A method according to claim 28, wherein the identifying step includes the following steps for each particular headless computer of the group:

(a) determining whether the particular headless computer has full data storage;
(b) determining whether the particular headless computer has reached a limit at which new users cannot be taken onto the particular headless computer; and
identifying the particular headless computer entity as a valid target in response to both of determining steps (a) and (b) having a negative result.

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Claim 42 (new): A method according to claim 32, wherein the identifying step includes the following steps for each particular headless computer of the group:

(a) determining whether the particular headless computer has full data storage;
(b) determining whether the particular headless computer has reached a limit at which new users cannot be taken onto the particular headless computer; and
identifying the particular headless computer entity as a valid target in response to both of determining steps (a) and (b) having a negative result.

Claim 43 (new): A method according to claim 35, wherein the identifying step includes the following steps for each particular headless computer of the group:

(a) determining whether the particular headless computer has full data storage;
(b) determining whether the particular headless computer has reached a limit at which new users cannot be taken onto the particular headless computer; and
identifying the particular headless computer entity as a valid target in response to both of determining steps (a) and (b) having a negative result.

Claim 44 (new): A method according to claim 28, further including setting up an agent on said one headless computer assigned for processing of the new account, said agent handling the user account for the client computer.

Claim 45 (new): A network comprising a client computer, a group of headless computers, the client computer and the group of headless computers being arranged so that in response to a new user account being added to the client computer:

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- (a) the headless computers in the group that are valid targets capable of holding the new account and arranged to be identified;
- (b) a test(s) is/are arranged to be performed to check that said identified headless computers are suitable to handle the new account; and
- (c) in response to the test(s) indicating one of said identified headless computers is suitable for holding the new account, arranging the new account to be assigned to said one headless computer for processing of the new account.

Claim 46 (new): The network of claim 45, wherein the identifying and the test performing steps are arranged to be performed only if all the headless computers of the group are capable of receiving the signal that a new account is to be added.

Claim 47 (new): The network of claim 45, wherein the identifying and the test performing steps are arranged to be performed only if the new account is found not to be in any of the headless computers of the group.

Claim 48 (new): The network of claim 45, wherein the client computer has an address and the headless computers that are the valid targets have addresses, and the test(s) include(s) comparing the address of the client computer with the address of the headless computers.

Claim 49 (new): The network of claim 48, wherein in response to the client computer address and the address(s) of the headless computers that are the valid targets

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being the same, forming a set of headless computers consisting of the headless computers having the same address as the address of the client computer, and selecting one of the headless computers from the set to be the headless computer to which the new account is assigned for processing.

Claim 50 (new): The network of claim 49, wherein the selection is arranged to be the headless computer of the set having the maximum amount of available file space.

Claim 51 (new): The network of claim 49, wherein the selection is arranged to random to a headless computer of the set.

Claim 52 (new): The network of claim 48, wherein in response to the client computer address differing from the addresses of all the headless computers that are the valid targets, a set of headless computers consisting of all the headless that are valid targets is arranged to be formed and one of the headless computers from the set is arranged to be the headless computer to which the new account is assigned for processing.

Claim 53 (new): The network of claim 52, wherein the selection is arranged to be random to a headless computer of the set.

Claim 54 (new): The network of claim 52, wherein in response to the client computer address differing from the addresses of all the headless computers that are the

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valid targets, a set of headless computers consisting of all the headless that are valid targets is arranged to be formed and one of the headless computers from the set is arranged to be the headless computer to which the new account is assigned for processing.

Claim 55 (new): The network of claim 45, wherein, for each particular headless computer of the group, the identifying is arranged to include the following:

(a) determining whether the particular headless computer has full data storage;
(b) determining whether the particular headless computer has reached a limit at which new users cannot be taken onto the particular headless computer; and
not identifying the particular headless computer entity as a valid target in response to both of determining steps (a) or (b) having a negative result.

Claim 56 (new): The network of claim 45, further including an arrangement for setting up an agent on said one headless computer assigned for processing of the new account, said agent being arranged for handling the user account for the client computer.

Claim 57 (new): The network of claim 45, wherein one of said headless computers is a master and at least one other of the headless computers is a slave coupled to the master, and a management console coupled with the master for supplying commands to establish a master-slave relation between the master and slave so that the master-slave relation is transparent to a user of the client computer during addition of a user account.